

Consolidated Information Technology Projects

Purpose –

LC 712 represents a significant change in the method of funding large information technology (IT) investments in a number of important respects.

First, the bill is structured similar to the long range building program to recognize that IT investments provide critical infrastructure, much like an office building or dam - for the provision of state services, the conduct of state government affairs and to allow citizens to more fully participate in decision making. Building IT systems can be as complex as building a new office building. Significant planning, design and management efforts are necessary for a successful project. LC 712 removes the time pressure that can result in hasty decisions and poorly performing projects by providing continuing budget authority.

Second, the structure of the bill reinforces the authority and statutory responsibilities of the state chief information officer established in the Montana Information Technology Act (MITA). Most of the appropriations contained in the bill are made to the state chief information officer (CIO) through the Department of Administration. By directly controlling the appropriations, the CIO can establish project benchmarks that must be completed before additional funds are released. This helps ensure projects are managed effectively to maximize success and creates greater partnerships between agencies and the state CIO.

Finally, a goal of the bill is to give the legislature and policy makers a broad vision of information technology in state government as all major investments will be focused on in one bill.

Background - Consistent with the Montana Information Technology Act (MITA) the Executive recommends the establishment of a long-range building bill that contains the major information technology systems proposed in the next legislature. LC712 contains most agency information technology projects in excess of \$2 million are contained in the bill rather than traditional HB2 funding.

Executive Recommendation –

The following provides a brief description of the IT projects included in LC 712:

Department of Public Health and Human Services:

Replace current Child and Adult Protective Services System

The Child Protective Services (CAPS) system is an automated social services information system covering all major program areas of child protection, juvenile corrections and probation. CAPS is significantly outdated and many functions are currently being performed outside the system, causing inconsistencies, and leaving room for errors. The new system will provide accurate and timely assistance to Montanans. Total cost of this system will be \$27,150,000, 56 percent general fund and 44 percent federal funds.

Replace current Food Stamp and TANF Eligibility Systems (currently TEAMS serves both)

The Economic Assistance Management System (TEAMS) is significantly outdated and does not meet the needs of the users. Currently many of the eligibility functions are performed manually on spreadsheets outside the system by the eligibility workers, leaving room for errors and inconsistency. The new system will improve service to clients, allow changes and enhancements to be made quickly and at a lower cost and will produce more accurate and efficient Federal reporting. Total cost of the TANF system will be \$16.2 million; 47 percent general fund and 53 percent federal funds. Total cost of the Food Stamp system will be \$13.1 million; 50 percent general fund and 50 percent federal funds.

Update Medicaid Disease Codes

ICD-10 is the new procedure and diagnosis code set for Medicaid Management Information System for federal coding and reporting that will completely replace the current system known as the International Classification of Diseases-9-Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) Implementation of

Consolidated Information Technology Projects

ICD-10 is mandated by the federal Medicaid Agency (CMS). Total cost will be \$3 million, with 90 percent of funding coming from the federal government.

CHIMES

CHIMES is the new Medicaid eligibility determination system which replaces the Medicaid functionality in the current TEAMS system. Medicaid is the first of the three eligibility determination modules in TEAMS (Medicaid/TANF/Food Stamps) to be replaced. CHIMES will be nearing completion by July 1, 2007. This request for \$1.1 million (50 percent general fund, 50 percent federal funds) is for the funding required to bring CHIMES to completion.

Department of Administration:

Northern Tier Network Expansion – The Information Technology Services Division is requesting an appropriation of \$7,823,000 general fund to expand of the state's SummitNet network to provide greater capacity for voice, video and data traffic. The project consists of two major initiatives. The Northern Tier portion provides funding for the equipment and maintenance needed to light two high capacity fiber optic lines through the I-90 corridor with drop-off points in major Montana cities on the route. The project is part of a national consortium's efforts to create a high-speed network from Seattle to Chicago using donated dark fiber throughout the route.

The second initiative funds a number of improvements to the existing SummitNet network. The funding is to establish a redundant Core Network Infrastructure (foundation) that provides multiple failover points in the network to ensure connectivity of critical services, to upgrade the Capitol Complex Fiber backbone to support high speed, fault tolerant services between buildings on the Complex and to upgrade the services and bandwidth to remote offices throughout the state.

Statewide E911 Network - The Information Technology Services Division is requesting an appropriation of \$4,000,000 general fund to support the multi-year build-out of the statewide E9-1-1 network and the continued development of a state-of-the-art 9-1-1 system. The funding request will be used to provide wireless public safety position determining equipment on the Statewide Network in order to provide the location of 9-1-1 calls made from wireless devices and to provide four additional Public Safety Answering Points.

Public Safety Radio Consortium -- The Information Technology Services Division is requesting a general fund appropriation of \$5,000,000 to support the multi-year build-out of the Interoperability Montana wireless public safety radio system. The funding will permit additional expansion of key public safety radio sites throughout the state and provide limited equipment for local law enforcement, fire and EMS to use the networked communication system. The funding will also provide State "maintenance of effort" funding to help ensure future federal project support.

Public Safety Radio Interoperability MT -- The Information Technology Services Division is requesting a one-time-only general fund appropriation of \$3,500,000 in FY 2009 to support the deployment of a second, redundant controller and transmission system for the Interoperability Montana wireless public safety radio system. The funding will permit the purchase of additional controlling infrastructure to be placed in the eastern portion of Montana to serve as a backup to main controller in Helena. In addition, digital microwave infrastructure needed to connect the two controllers will be upgraded to meet the needs of this equipment.

Judicial Branch:

Court Technology Improvements

This proposal seeks funding to continue the Judicial Branch's efforts to modernize Montana courts in a manner that meets the unique needs of the Judicial Branch while at the same time conforms to State of Montana information technology standards. This \$3,935,000 general fund will provide court technology improvement projects: case management improvements and court room technology improvements. This project relies heavily on the State's telecommunications network - SummitNet II and the State's document and content management system "FileNet." These costs are included in the proposal.